

1977

Report of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee on the Honors Colloquium Program (Recommendations #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8)

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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*See Chair - Pres.
Correspondence*

Serial Number # 76-77--14 2/21

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF R. I.

FEB 7 1977


OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Report of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee on the Honors Colloquium Program (Recommendations #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8),
is forwarded for your consideration.
2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on February 3, 1977 (date).
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on February 24, 1977 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

February 4, 1977
(date)


Daniel P. Bergen
Chairman of the Faculty Senate


ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. Approved ✓. Disapproved .
3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Regents is not necessary.

2/22/77
(date)


President

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

(date)

President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Regents, via the University President.

1. Forwarded.

(date)

(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

(date)

President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

(date)

Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Honors Program
and
Visiting Scholars Committee

Review of Honors Colloquium Program

A four member subcommittee has studied the Honors Colloquium Program and presented its recommendations to the committee. The subcommittee was chaired by Lorraine Bloomquist and its members included Michael Purdy, Gary Thurston and Leslie Rivera. The major work of the subcommittee involved interviewing:

- a. Nine coordinators of the Honors Colloquium
- b. Six chairmen of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee
- c. Three administrators, and
- d. Nine students participating in the Honors Colloquium

Recommendations by our committee include procedures to improve the administration of the Honors Colloquium and University Manual and changes to make the Honors Program more selective in the admission of students.

Recommendation 1: The Honors Program should be continued and adequate funding for the program should be maintained.

Rationale: Every interviewee recommended that a University Honors Program be continued. The Honors Colloquium provides enrichment to the student body, the faculty, the University community, and the public. It provides a creative and innovative outlet for faculty selected to be coordinators and stands as a model of creativity and innovation for other faculty. It provides a unique experience for exceptional students. It also represents one of the important activities of a University.

Recommendation 2: The maximum size of discussion groups should be twenty five students.

Rationale: The necessarily large size of the lecture should be balanced by smaller discussion groups.

Recommendations 3: Three students enrolled in the colloquium and eligible to participate in the next year's colloquium will be selected to assist the committee in choosing the next topic.

Rationale: Student input is helpful in selecting a broadly based topic.

Recommendation 4: The coordinator(s) should be evaluated by the committee at the end of the academic year. This evaluation will be sent to the coordinator and his Department Chairman.

Proposed version:

If more students seek access to a program than can be accommodated due to limited faculty and/or facilities, those students who have shown the highest promise for academic success in the program will be admitted first. Before the program is officially declared a crowded or tight one, steps will be taken to increase faculty and/or facilities. Only if these measures fail will students be selected on the basis of promise. Procedures for selection will be established by the faculty of the program and made public. These procedures may not be based solely on grade point average and all students who have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 must be considered. Students who cannot be admitted to the program of their first choice may request entry into another program for which they are qualified or spend up to an additional year in University College preparing to qualify for their first choice or to enter another program.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Bradbury
Ann Byrne
Winifred Caldwell
Jeanette Crooker
James Gold
Thomas Langford
Bernice Lott
Louise MacKenzie
Scott MacKenzie, Chairperson
Barbara Munro
George Osborne
Doug Rosie
Irving Spaulding
Jack Thompson

Rationale: The implementation of this recommendation will help meet the responsibilities of the committee in its supervisory role over the coordinator (See 5.82.10 of the University Manual). It will also encourage the reward of the creative efforts of the coordinator.

Recommendation 5: The following procedure should be used to insure that adequate communication exists between the coordinator and those affected by the selection.

1. When the faculty member submits the Colloquium proposal to the committee he shall have secured an informal commitment for released time from his Chairman
2. When the faculty member is selected he should obtain a formal commitment from his Department Chairman
3. The Committee Chairman and the faculty member should then together secure a commitment for cooperation from the Dean
4. The Committee Chairman and the Coordinator should confer and review the proposal with the Academic Vice President (or his designee) regarding the Honors Colloquium administration
5. Each December the Faculty Senate will be informed of the Colloquium proposal and its coordinator.

Rationale: Adequate communication among the personnel involved will help insure an excellent program.

Recommendation 6: A permanent half-time secretary should be hired for administration in order to maintain continuity of the program. The secretary will be employed in the Faculty Senate Office. Funding will be from the Honors Colloquium Account.

Rationale: A permanent half-time secretary will provide continuity and relieve the coordinator of excessive paper work.

Recommendation 7: The students should have the option of selecting a letter grade or the S-U option. (This recommendation has also been forwarded to the Curricula Affairs Committee).

Rationale: The students interviewed were in unanimous agreement that they should be allowed to make the choice between a letter grade or the S-U option. The coordinator should be encouraged to make the Colloquium rigorous and not award every student an A grade.

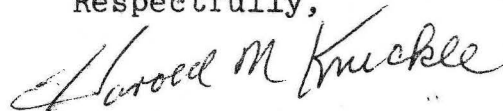
The following recommendation involves a University Manual change.

Recommendation 8: Substitute the following for Section 8.51.10.

8.51.10 Eligibility. Within two weeks after computing fall semester grades the Registrar shall notify the top ten percent, by GPA, of the combined group of juniors and seniors in each ~~Concentration~~ of their eligibility for honors work. The Registrar shall send a copy of the notice to the students' academic dean. [REDACTED] The Departments will then make a recommendation on each of these students. Students not in the top ten percent who are especially well qualified may be nominated by a faculty member for admission. The faculty member will defend his recommendation in the application. Acceptance of these applications will be determined by the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee.

Rationale: To provide a breadth of potential students for potential honors work and to make the program more selective.

Respectfully,



Harold N. Knickle
Chairman, Honors Program
and Visiting Scholars Committee